

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub 7
B1 1. A process for producing a friction material containing a fiber component, a binder component and a filler component from raw materials of a friction material through at least a mixing step, a molding step and a heat-treating step, wherein the mixing of said raw materials in said mixing step is carried out by stirring and mixing the raw materials under heating in a dry system at a temperature where said binder is softened.

2. A process for producing a friction material according to Claim 1, wherein, in the mixing step, the raw materials are heated to a temperature not higher than the temperature ranging from a temperature where a reaction for curing a thermosetting resin which is the binder component does not take place to a temperature where the reaction takes place only little and not lower than the softening temperature of the resin and mixed under pressure as required.

3. A process for producing a friction material according to Claim 1, wherein the thermosetting resin is a phenol resin having a curing reaction-initiating temperature of 130°C or more and a softening temperature of 80 to 120°C.

4. A process for producing a friction material according to Claim 2, wherein the thermosetting resin is a phenol resin having a curing reaction-initiating temperature of 130°C or more and a softening temperature of 80 to 120°C.

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B2 5. A friction material comprising a fiber component, a binder component and a filler component wherein raw

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materials for a friction material are stirred and mixed under heating in a dry system at a temperature where the binder is softened.

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6. A friction material according to Claim 5, wherein a thermosetting resin which is the thermosetting resin is a phenol resin having a curing reaction-initiating temperature of 130°C or more and a softening temperature of 80 to 120°C.